MangaBox

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YKS SERVICES LLC / SKY JAPAN, Inc

ZERO

CHAPTER 48: CHARM

WRITTEN BY
SEIMARU AMAGI

ART BY
HAKUS

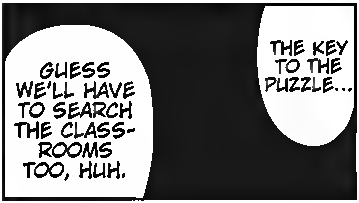
ORIGINAL STORY
KOEI TECMO GAMES

THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL, AND COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, OR EVENTS.

.....
SO, WASHI-ZUKI-SAN?
HAVE YOU FOUND ANY-THING?
.....
I'VE FOUND NOTH-ING.
...YEAH.
WELL, THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED. A NECROMANCER WOULDN'T SET A TRAP...
...THAT ONLY TOOK A LITTLE BIT OF SEARCH-ING TO LEAVE.

.....
Glare

I SUPPOSE ALL WE CAN DO IS JUST KEEP SEARCHING UNTIL WE FIND SOMETHING.
YOU'RE RIGHT...


THE KEY TO THE PUZZLE...
GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO SEARCH THE CLASSROOMS TOO, HUH.

Shf
WHICH MEANS...

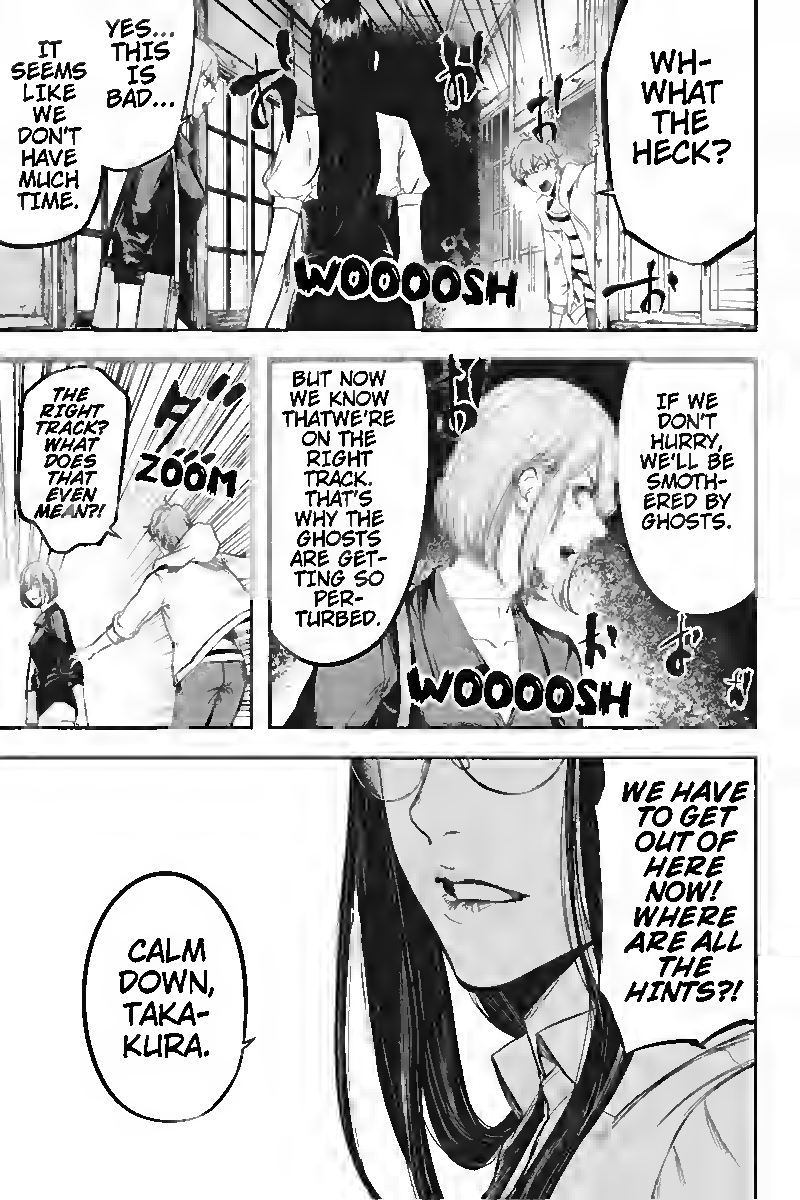
IT WAS PRETTY EASY WHEN AMANUMA AND I GOT OUT OF THAT GRAVEYARD, THOUGH. THE EXIT WAS A BRIGHT LIGHT.
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE THAT'S NOT HOW THIS IS GONNA WORK.

.....
...SOMETHING PRETTY BIG...
THERE'S PROBABLY...
I MEAN, THERE MUST BE, RIGHT?
...HIDDEN SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE.
.....
I'LL JUST START LOOKING AROUND RANDOMLY.

ROAAAAAR
!!

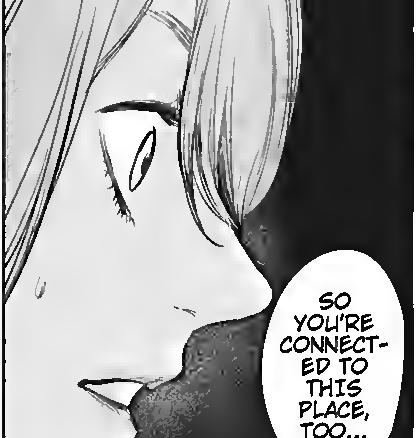
HEY, HEY NOW...

WOOOSH
shiver
shiver


WH-WHAT THE HECK?
WOOOOSH
YES... THIS IS BAD...
IT SEEMS LIKE WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
IF WE DON'T HURRY, WE'LL BE SMOTHERED BY GHOSTS.
BUT NOW WE KNOW THATWE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK. THAT'S WHY THE GHOSTS ARE GETTING SO PERTURBED.
WOOOOSH
ZOOM
THE RIGHT TRACK? WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?!
WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE NOW! WHERE ARE ALL THE HINTS?!
CALM DOWN, TAKAKURA.

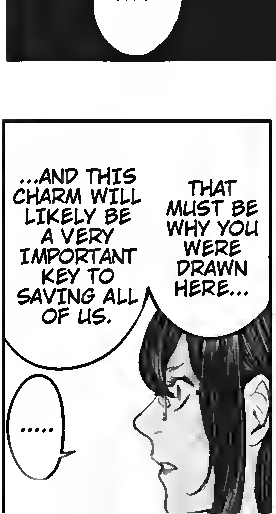
IF IT COMES DOWN TO IT, WE HAVE WASHIZUKI'S CAMERA OBSCURA...
...AND MY CHARM TO HELP US OUT.
IF YOU HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO COMPLAIN, YOU SHOULD BE FINDING THEM YOURSELF!
I-I KNOW THAT! DAMN! WHERE COULD THEY BE?!
I-IDIOT! THAT'S NOT GONNA GET US OUT OF ANYTHING!
IF WE CAN'T FIND THE HINTS, WE'RE SCREWED EITHER WAY!!
.....
WAIT A MOMENT.

LET ME SEE...
...THAT CHARM.
7 Shf ...
OH... SURE.
...?
I GOT IT FROM MY GRANDPA.
YOUR GRAND-FATHER GAVE YOU THIS STONE?
YES. MY FAMILY HAS BEEN STONEMASONS FOR TWELVE GENERATIONS. IT WAS GIVEN TO HIM AFTER MAKING A SHRINE OR TEMPLE OF SOME SORT, I GUESS.
HE HAD A PART IN BUILDING THIS SCHOOL, TOO.


SO YOU'RE CONNECT-ED TO THIS PLACE, TOO...

THAT CHARM IS THE REASON THAT WE'RE STILL HERE.
I CAN'T BE-LIEVE IT...

HUH ...?
YOU MAY BE HERE BECAUSE IT'S YOUR DESTINY.
AMA-NUMA-SAN...


.....
...AND THIS CHARM WILL LIKELY BE A VERY IMPORTANT KEY TO SAVING ALL OF US.
THAT MUST BE WHY YOU WERE DRAWN HERE...

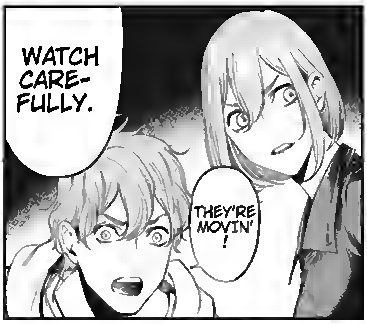
SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING, THAT PUTS YOU ON THE LEVEL OF A SHINTO PRIEST.
...GIVEN A CHARM FROM A HOLY PLACE.
TWELVE GENERA-TIONS OF STONE MASONS ...

PLEASE CLEANSE AND PURIFY THIS PLACE...
PLEASE PROTECT US AND BRING US GOOD FORTUNE...
ALL GOOD AND PURE SPIRITS WHO RETAIN THEIR WILLS...
PLEASE GUIDE US TO THE RIGHT PATH!!
.....
PLEASE...
SHOW US SOME SORT OF GUIDANCE.

ほげた剣。
ホロ
FOOM
ろ

...!
!!
CRACKLE
THE DOODLE ONI'S EYES...
...
THEY'RE GLOW-ING!!

FWOOM


WATCH CARE-FULLY.
THEY'RE MOVIN'!

GGGR
FOOO

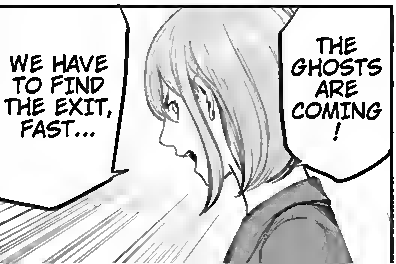
.....
THE ANSWER MUST LIE WHERE THE SIGHT-LINE ENDS!

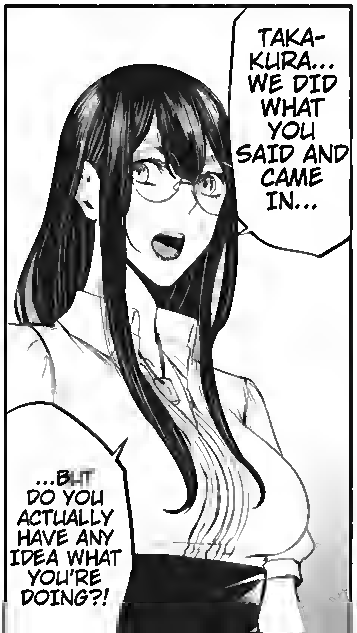
SHIING
IT'S... THE CLASS-ROOM I WAS IN...?
Gulp
!!
WOOOOSH

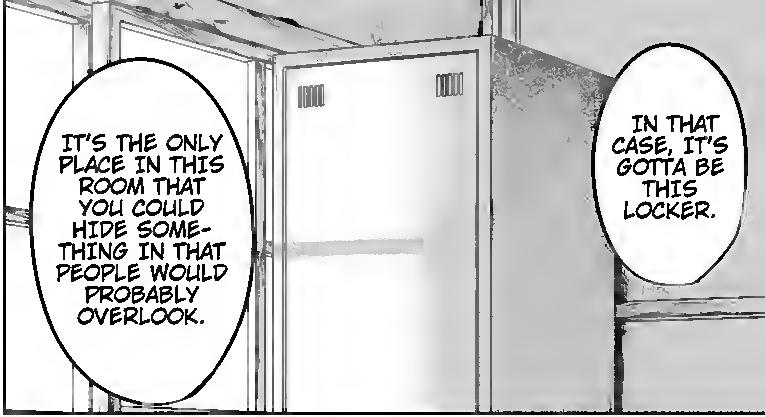
ROAAAAR
AAAAAAA
INTO THE CLASS ROOM !!
ROAAAAR
SHIT! THEY'RE HERE!!
OH!

WOOOSH
Shunk
Pant
Pant
WOOOSH

THE ONI'S GLOWING EYES LIT UP THIS CLASS-ROOM!
YEAH ...!


WE HAVE TO FIND THE EXIT, FAST...
THE GHOSTS ARE COMING!

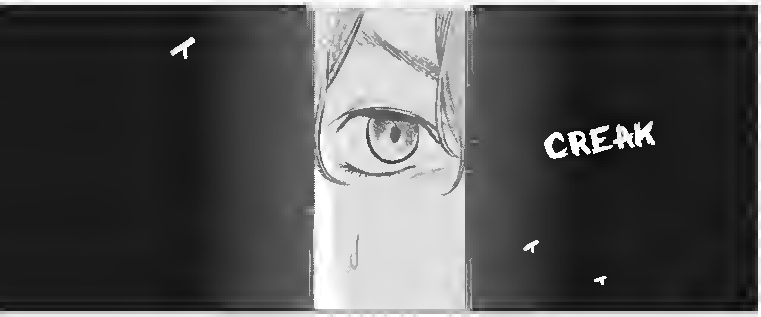

TAKA-KURA... WE DID WHAT YOU SAID AND CAME IN...
...BUT DO YOU ACTUALLY HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'RE DOING?!


IT'S THE ONLY PLACE IN THIS ROOM THAT YOU COULD HIDE SOMETHING IN THAT PEOPLE WOULD PROBABLY OVERLOOK.
IN THAT CASE, IT'S GOTTA BE THIS LOCKER.

Gulp
.....
THAT'S GOTTA BE IT...

I'M GONNA OPEN IT.

CREAAAAK


CREAK

WH...?
N-NO WAY!
IT'S... NOT HERE?!
TO BE CONTINUED...